Vol. VII. Numb. 34

THE OBSERVATOR.

Remarks on the French *Army's avoiding Battel in the* Netherlands. *On our taking* 80 *of their Ships, and two Men of War in the* Streights, *and killing* 1500 *Men in* Rouſſilon. *On their attacking the Port of* Galway, *in* Ireland. *More Remarks on the* Buckinghamſhire *Inſtructions to their Repreſentatives, about carrying on the War with* France, *eſtabliſhing the Union, and preſerving our ancient Conſtitution.*

From Saturday, May 29. to Wednesday, June 2. 1708.

Obſ. THE Armies are now in the Field, *Roger*; have you brought me no fighting Stories?

Country-m. Maſter, the *French* had got the Art of running away from us both by Sea and Land; but we have met with them a little, and I hope we ſhall overtake them more before the Campaign be at an End. However, if they have diſappointed us of a Battel in *Flanders*, we have diſappointed them of getting Poſſeſſion of the Poſt of *Park-Abbey*, by *Louvain*, tho' it coſt us a very hard and wet March.

Obſ. To tell you the Truth, *Roger*, ever ſince I heard of their ſending ſo many Princes to their Army in *Flanders*, I have been of Opinion, that they had ſomething elſe in View there, than Fighting; but the unfolding of theſe Things, we muſt leave to the Event.

Country-m. I have good Tidings, however, to tell you from Sea, Maſter, and from *Spain*. The News that came in on Monday, ſays we have kill'd them 1500 Men in *Rouſſilon*, and taken two Men of War, of 56 and 44 Guns, and 80 of their Tranſports in the *Mediterranean*, bound from *Toulon* to *Catalonia*; and that we have ſunk one of their *Breſt* Ships, of 44 Guns, that came to attack five of our *East India* Ships in the Harbour of *Galway* in *Ireland*, and ſtranded another of 50, with 500 Men on Board, whom we have taken.

Obſ. I rejoyce at it with all my Heart, *Roger*, and wiſh for more ſuch News; but I am ſorry they ſhould have ſo much Command in the narrow Seas, as to make ſuch an Attempt on the Port of *Galway*, wherein, had they ſucceeded, it would have been a great Loſs, as well as a Diſgrace, to the Nation. In the mean Time, all this ſhews the Neceſſity of making our utmoſt Efforts to reduce the Naval Power of *France*; otherwiſe, we can never be ſafe.

Country-m. I agree with you, Maſter, and think it ought to have been given in Inſtructions to our Parliament-men, that they ſhould preſs the carrying on of a vigorous War by Sea; for I am of Opinion, that it very much leſſens the Reputation of us and the *Dutch* too, that we ſhould have been at War ſo many Years with *France*, and ſuffer her to be in a Condition to inſult us both by Sea, when at the ſame Time we juſtly value our Selves upon being the greateſt Maritime Powers of the World. I hope, however, Maſter, that the Story of our taking ſo many of their Ships in the *Mediterranean*, with Proviſions, may be of Conſequence, becauſe it will be a great Relief to the Confederates in *Catalonia*, and our Garriſon in *Alicant*, which all the *French* News of a long Time, ſay, is in great Want of Proviſions. But pray let's return, Maſter, to the *Buckinghamſhire* Inſtructions to their Members of Parliament.

Obſ. The third Article of their Inſtructions to their Repreſentatives, *Roger*, is, 'That they ſhould not 'fail ſo effectually to enable the Government to pro'ſecute the War with *France*, that we may not be 'under the Neceſſity of hearkening to any Propo'ſal of Peace 'till the Proteſtant Succeſſion be out 'of Danger of being diſturb'd, and the whole *Spa'niſh* Monarchy be reſtor'd to the Houſe of *Auſtria*.

This Inſtruction, *Roger*, is a Sign of true *Britiſh* Courage and Honeſty; for without obtaining what thoſe Gentlemen deſire, we have been fighting ever ſince the Revolution in vain, and have ſpent ſo much Money and Blood to little Purpoſe.

Country-m. Pray, Maſter, make that plain to me, and ſuch other Country Electors as my ſelf; for perhaps it may prevail with ſuch as have hitherto neglected giving Inſtructions to their Members, ſtill to do it.

Obſ. 'Tis ſo very plain of it ſelf, *Roger*, that I think we need not uſe many Words about it. The Danger we were in of Popery, Slavery, and a Popiſh Succeſſion, engag'd the Nations to take Arms againſt the late King *James*, and to dethrone him; ſo that if we don't carry on the War ſo as to put it out of the Power of our Enemies Abroad and at Home, to diſturb the Proteſtant Succeſſion, we loſe all the Benefit we promis'd our Selves by the Revolution, and muſt again expect to have a Standing-Army to over-awe us, and ſubvert our Liberties; to have Papiſts put into all our chief Poſts, Civil and Military; to have our Biſhops not only ſent to the *Tower*, but perhaps to *Smithfield*; to have our Univerſities crowded with Papiſts; and to have a Popiſh Succeſſion, and Slavery entail'd upon us for ever. Then as to the other Part of the Inſtruction, *To have the whole* Spaniſh *Monarchy reſtor'd to the Houſe of* Auſtria, 'tis plain to a Demonſtration, that if the *French* King be left in Poſſeſſion of that Monarchy, and particularly of the Trade and Treaſures of the *Weſt Indies*, we muſt certainly be in Danger of all the Things above-mention'd.

Country-m. That I think demonſtrable enough, Maſter, from the late Attempt of ſending the Pretender to invade us; from the Damage they have done our Trade and Shipping within theſe few Years; from their being Maſters of all the Money and Commerce of the *Weſt Indies*; and from their ſtill inſulting our Coaſts, and attempting our Merchant-Ships in our own Harbours: For if they be capable of doing thus, while King *Charles* has been with an Army in the Bowels of *Spain*, and is ſtill in *Catalonia*, and after ſuch Defeats as thoſe of *Turin*, *Hochſtedt*, and *Ramillies*, what will they not be able to do, if ever we ſhould make ſuch a diſhonourable Peace, as to leave them in Poſſeſſion of *Spain* and the *Weſt Indies*?

Obſ. You ſay very well, *Roger*; for in that Caſe, we ſhould not be ſo eaſily acquitted, as we were during the late Attempt upon us; the *French* would then be in a Condition to invade us with a much greater Force, both by Sea and Land; and their Party among our Selves, would be ſo much encourag'd, that in all Probability they might join them with conſiderable Numbers, upon their Landing, as they were to have done upon the deſign'd Invaſion from *La Hogue*. Beſides, *Roger*, if *France* be left in Poſſeſſion of *Spain* and the *Weſt Indies*, all the Wars which have been made, and all the Treaties which have been concluded, for preſerving the Ballance of *Europe*, have been to no Purpoſe. *Chriſtendom* muſt then prepare her Neck for the *French* Yoke, and Liberty will become as great a Stranger among Chriſtians, as 'tis now among Turks.

Country-m. I hope, Maſter, no Body will offer to talk of a Peace, without the Authority of Queen and Parliament, who have both ſo ſolemnly declar'd

for

for continuing the War 'till the Monarchy of *Spain* be reſtor'd to the Houſe of *Auſtria*; and if it ſhould be propos'd in Parliament, Maſter, I hope our Repreſentatives will take Care, that it be not ſuch a deceitful Peace as that of *Ryſwick*, which gave the *French* King Time to breath, in order to renew the War with more Vigour; left our Succeſſion unprovided for, and put an Argument in the Mouths of the then Courtiers, for a ſtanding Army in Time of Peace, which has ever been fatal to the Liberties of the People. But pray, Maſter, give me your Opinion of the 4th Article of the Inſtructions, *viz.* 'That the Union of the two Kingdoms may be ſo 'firmly eſtabliſh'd, that thoſe of *North Britain* may 'be ſecur'd from the Hardſhips they have labour'd 'under; and that we may be capable of receiving 'and enjoying all the Benefits and Advantages 'which were propos'd from ſo glorious and happy 'an Union.

Obſ. We took Notice in our laſt, *Roger*, that our *Buckinghamſhire* Electors were very generous and juſt, in extending their Care to the whole Iſland; for ſince we are now one Kingdom, 'tis a Contradiction in Terms, to talk or think of diſtinct Intereſts. And ſince the Complaints of the *Scots*, as to their Sufferings in Point of Religion, Liberty, and Trade, by the Influence of *Engliſh* Miniſters, have been very loud ever ſince the Union of the Crowns, it is but juſt, that our Repreſentatives join with theirs in laying down all poſſible Methods to prevent ſuch Grievances for Time to come, and particularly to take off the Sacramental Teſt, which puts ſuch a diſhonourable Badge of Diſtinction upon thoſe of the Church of *Scotland*, and the Diſſenters here, and cannot but give the *Scots* Reaſon to ſuſpect, that their Church-Conſtitution reſerv'd to them by the Union, muſt always be in Danger, if thoſe of that Way be not made equally capable of Places of Power and Truſt, with thoſe of the Church of *England*. Therefore the *Buckinghamſhire* Gentlemen are perfectly right, to deſire, that the *Scots* may be ſecur'd from the Hardſhips they have labour'd under; otherwiſe we can never expect, that the Union will either be beneficial or laſting; but inſtead of its being an Advantage to us, the Diſcontents which muſt neceſſarily prevail among the *Scots* in ſuch a Caſe, will ſtill oblige us to keep up a Standing-Army in Time of Peace, and keep a ſtrong and a dangerous Party always ready form'd among us, to ſupport the Intereſt of the Pretender, and his ſuppos'd Siſter, or their Iſſue; and in Caſe their Race ſhould fail, of the Houſe of *Savoy*, deſcended from the Dutcheſs of *Orleance*.

Country-m. Pray, Maſter, give me your Opinion of the fifth Article of the *Buckinghamſhire* Inſtructions, *viz.* 'That they be careful to preſerve 'the ancient Conſtitution of the Government, eſ'pecially that of Parliaments; and that therefore 'that dangerous Preſident of determining the Re'ſolutions of Parliament by Ballotting, may be no 'farther countenanc'd, by which the Electors are 'depriv'd of the Means of knowing after what 'Manner the Repreſentatives diſcharge themſelves 'of the great Truſt that is repos'd in them.

Obſ. I wiſh, *Roger*, this Part of the Inſtructions about Ballotting, had been a little more clearly expreſs'd; for ſome will be apt to ſuppoſe, that thoſe Gentlemen are againſt Ballotting in general; tho' I think their Words may be fairly conſtru'd otherwiſe, and that they don't diſapprove of it, in ſo far as 'tis already introduc'd into Parliament, or combat its being made Uſe of in Elections, for preventing thoſe Diſorders which frequently happen in that Caſe, and for hindering Men to vote according to their Conſciences, leaſt they ſhould be injur'd in their Trade, or otherwiſe, by ſome of the Competitors. But certainly they are in the Right, to take Care, that no Cuſtom be introduc'd into Parliament, by which the Electors may be depriv'd of knowing how their Repreſentatives behave themſelves; for the Truſt is really ſo great, that no Man ought to have it conferr'd upon him, but he who has the Courage and Honeſty to purſue the true Intereſt of his Country, and the Inſtructions of his Electors, without being over-aw'd by Courtiers, or diverted from it, by any private Views of his own Profit and Intereſt. And I could heartily wiſh, *Roger*, that all our Electors and Elected, had ſuch a Knowledge of our ancient Conſtitution, ſo great an Eſteem for it, and ſo much Courage to aſſert it, as ſhould make Ballotting in any Caſe altogether needleſs. But ſince the Tyranny of the late Reigns, and the conſtant Practice of corrupting and overawing both Electors and Elected, has formerly thruſt our ancient Conſtitution out of Doors, I don't ſee how any Man, who has a true Value for Liberty, and perfectly underſtands Ballotting, and with what Advantage it is practis'd in *Venice*, and elſewhere, can be againſt it in general.

Advertiſements.

Juſt publiſh'd,

¶ The Hazard of a Death-bed Repentance, fairly argu'd, from the late Remorſe of W—, late D— of D—; with ſerious Reflections on his adulterous Life. On his Living ſo long in a known Sin. On that Latin Epitaph he order'd to ſet on the Tomb-ſtone of Miſs Campion. And upon his ſeeming Penitence in his laſt Sickneſs. Alſo the dying Remonſtrance of other Perſons of Quality; and in particular of John Hathden, Eſq; (formerly Knight of the Shire for Bucks) being a Paper he ſent by Monſieur Alix to Dr. Patrick, late Biſhop of Ely. The whole reſolving that nice Queſtion, how far a Death-bed Repentance is poſſible to be ſincere? And is publiſh'd by Way of Anſwer to Dr. K—s Sermon, preach'd at the Funeral of W—, late D— of D—. To which is added, Conjugal Perjury; or, An Eſſay upon Whoredom: Addreſs'd to the Husbands of Quality that keep Miſſes, price 1 s. This ſecret Hiſtory, &c. (in Anſwer to Dr. K—s Sermon) is printed on a large Paper and ſmall Letter, and contains as much Matter for 1 s. as would have made a Book of 2 s. in a large Letter; ſo that if the pyrating Printers pretend to publiſh it in a 1 d. Book, 'tis impoſſible their ſtollen Copy ſhould contain the fourth Part of the Author's original Copy, which is ſold only by John Morphew, near Stationers-Hall, and whom he has entruſted to that End.

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¶ Reflections, Moral, Comical, Satyrical, &c. on the Vices and Follies of the Age. Containing, The Enjoyment. To Celia. An Epiſtle. The Pretty Cheat. The Complaint. An extempore Thought upon that unwholſome Breath, call'd a Fart. A Song, Engliſh and Latin. The Maid's laſt Prayer. The Tea-Table. An Encomium on Britiſh-Beer. On her Grace the Dutcheſs of Ormond's Picture, drawn by Sir Godfrey Kneller. Corinna, Enjoy'd. To a Lady. On his Grace the Duke of Marlborough's fine Houſe at Woodſtock. The Speeches of the Devils, from Milton. Paraphraſ'd and turn'd into Rhime, feign'd to be ſpoken in a Council of War, conſiſting of Lucifer, Rymmon, Moloch, Belial, Aſmodai, Mammon, Adramelech, and Ramiel. Part the ſixth. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. price 6 d. where may be had the five other Parts, price 6 d. each.

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